TIMBER TALK

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President's Message

Well, it looks like we survived another winter and are well on our way transitioning to the hot and lazy days of summer. I know one week this summer that will be busy and fun, that is the week of July 18th, when the annual RCNA Convention takes place in Ottawa, Ontario. As in years past CAWMC will be holding their breakfast and AGM meeting during the Convention on Saturday, July 23rd. This will be the first time that members will have the chance to meet up and enjoy a breakfast and fellowship since we last met in Calgary in 2019. I am really looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting in July!

One of the items on the CAWMC meeting agenda that all members enjoy is the Auction that is held at the end of the meeting. If you would like to consign some items, CAWMC will keep 20% of the sale as commission, but you can donate all proceeds to CAWMC if you wish. Please contact Al Munro, our auctioneer or France with items you have up for auction and we will be able to list them in the TT issue, before the meeting in July.

There is a Zoom Meeting scheduled for April 19th and all Members are welcome to attend. This Meeting will be informal and will be a way for Members to chat and catch up with each other. The Zoom meeting log information is detailed below.

I hope everyone is enjoying the "Get to Know" segment that has appeared in the last few Timber Talks. I think it is a great way to get to know our fellow CAWMC members. If you are interested and want to be featured in it, just let France know and she can find a spot in an upcoming issue.

Cheers, ***James***

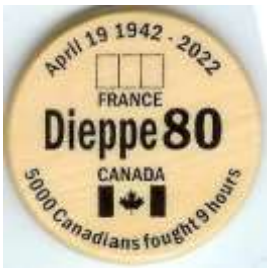
Featured Wood of the Month

The featured wood of the Month commemorates both the 105th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, which started on April 9, 1917, and the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid, on August 19, 1942. Thank you to Judy Blackman for donating these woods, produced by Jim Smith. According to Wikipedia, harvested on March 7, 2022:

The Battle of Vimy Ridge *was part of the Battle of Arras, in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France, during the First World War. The main combatants were the four divisions of the Canadian Corps in the First Army, against three divisions of the German 6th Army. The battle took place from 9 to 12 April 1917.*

The Canadian Corps were to capture the German-held high groundof Vimy Ridge, an escarpment on the northern flank of the Arras front. This would protect the First Army and the Third Army farther south from German enfilade fire. Supported by a creeping barrage, the Canadian Corps captured most of the ridge during the first day. The village of Thélus fell during the second day, as did the crest of the ridge, once the Canadian Corps overran a salient against considerable German resistance. The final objective, a fortified knoll outside the village of Givenchy-en-Gohelle, fell to the Canadians on 12 April.

Historians attribute the success of the Canadian Corps to technical and tactical innovation, meticulous planning, powerful artillery support and extensive training.(…) The battle was the first occasion when the four divisions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force fought together and it was made a symbol of Canadian national achievement and sacrifice.[5]



*The **Dieppe Raid** (19 August 1942) was an Allied amphibious attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe in northern France, during the Second World War. Over 6,050 infantry, predominantly Canadian, supported by a regiment of tanks, were put ashore from a naval force operating under protection of Royal Air Force (RAF) fighters.*

The port was to be captured and held for a short period, to test the feasibility of a landing and to gather intelligence. German coastal defences, port structures and important buildings were to be demolished. The raid was intended to boost Allied morale, demonstrate the commitment of the United Kingdom to re-open the Western Front and support the Soviet Union, fighting on the Eastern Front.

Aerial and naval support was insufficient to enable the ground forces to achieve their objectives; the tanks were trapped on the beach and the infantry was largely prevented from entering the town by obstacles and German fire.[7] After less than six hours, mounting casualties forced a retreat. The operation was a fiasco in which only one landing force achieved its objective and some intelligence including electronic intelligence was gathered.

Within ten hours, 3,623 of the 6,086 men who landed had been killed, wounded, or became prisoners of war. The Luftwaffe made a maximum effort against the landing as the RAF had expected, but the RAF lost 106 aircraft (at least 32 to anti-aircraft fire or accidents) against 48 German losses. The Royal Navy lost 33 landing craft and a destroyer.

Both sides learned important lessons regarding coastal assaults. The Allies learned lessons that influenced the success of the D-Day landings. Artificial harbours were declared crucial, tanks were adapted specifically for beaches, a new integrated tactical air force strengthened ground support, and capturing a major port at the outset was no longer seen as a priority. Churchill and Mountbatten both claimed that these lessons had outweighed the cost. The Germans also believed that Dieppe was a learning experience and made a considerable effort to improve the way they defended the occupied coastlines of Europe.[8]

Canadian Red Ensign used at the time of WW1 *Canadian Red Ensign used 1921-1957*

SOC-CAWMC 2022 VIRTUAL "ZOOM" SPRING MEETING

Note: All times are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), and the meeting/session links will become active 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting to allow time for open discussion and resolution of technical difficulties. One tap mobile phone number information string follow the internet link to the meeting.

TUESDAY APRIL 19, 2022

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm The Southern Ontario Chapter of the **Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC)** invite you to an open Zoom meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81727197089?pwd=MFozNXhaYm4zSmM1akZDNkt4NG9KQT09

Meeting ID: 817 2719 7089

Passcode: 360733

One tap mobile

+14388097799,,81727197089#,,,,*360733# Canada

+15873281099,,81727197089#,,,,*360733# Canada

Dial by your location……Details to come

Get to Know Me …Bob Fritsch

Greetings to all fans of wooden money. I am Bob Fritsch, your US representative on the CAWMC Board of Directors. I was born in Akron, Ohio, but did not stay there with a move to California and my subsequent Navy career which took me to the far reaches of the world. Duty in Alaska, Japan, Germany, Maine, at sea in the Mediterranean, Scotland, Norfolk, VA, Spain and Washington, DC, led me to collect circulating coins of the countries I visited. We even had a port call in Halifax way back when.

I moved to New Hampshire after retirement from the Navy, both for a job and the fact I married a NH lady. Involvement in organized numismatics quickly followed along with an expansion of my collecting interests. I fell in love with New Hampshire Town Medals, a beautiful series, and their associated pieces including wooden nickels which often repeated the medal's design, elongated coins, encased coins, and other NH material. Joining several local clubs, I soon applied the leadership skills I had learned in the Navy to club administration. In the early 1990s I was the President of a local, state, and regional club at the same time.

The first ANA I attended full time was in Baltimore, MD, in 1993 and started joining other clubs including the now-defunct Dedicated Wooden Money Collectors, The Elongated Collectors, and the Token and Medal Society. The International Organization of Wooden Money Collectors came soon after and got elected as President a few years later. I am now a member of every wooden money club in North America except one (Fishbowl)

My wooden money collecting has remained fairly stable with New Hampshire still my major interest, plus I issue a wood every now and again. It is a fun hobby that preserves the artifacts of popular culture in a way that no other numismatic field does. It is my pleasure to serve you as a CAWMC Director.

Bob

Chips from the Woodpile …By Dave Gillespie

The Ponderosa Motel & R.V. Park and the Elizabeth Lake Lodge at the same location in Cranbrook, B.C. issued wooden tokens for both operations, but they seem to be very scarce and hard to find despite the quantities issued. The Motel issued about 3000 tokens "Good for one Free Game" of golf back in 1997 and the Lodge had two issues of 3000 each in 2004 and 2008 also "Good for one Free Game". The woods are listed in the catalogue as 9360-02 and 9360-03 respectively but the year of issue and quantities are not shown. In a later article, George Freitag, owner of Elizabeth Lake Lodge stated that the mini putt golf course for which these tokens were issued is the most difficult in Canada. The course was built in 1989 at a cost of $85,000.00 and was called "Little Big Putt". It was revitalized in 2004 with another $95,000.00 invested over the next four years and the name was changed to "History of the Kootenays" at Elizabeth Lodge. The course is a par 70 with very few players able to make par. The course also includes a waterwheel hole that on average takes twenty-two shots. This sounds like a great challenge for both golfers and non-golfers alike should you be on holidays in the Cranbrook area.

Do you know why we have piggy banks instead of bunny banks or kitty banks? In 2011 an article informed us that in medieval England, pots and dishes were made from clay know as "pygg" and it was common practice to save spare change in a kitchen pot. Around 1600, an English potter, who was unfamiliar with the custom was asked to make a pygg bank, which he misunderstood to be a clay vessel in the shape of an animal. The result was a clay pig with a slot in it's back. The piggy bank had arrived.

It appears as I have read through the first thirty-five years of C.A.W.M.C. newsletters (more than 400 issues) that most new wood issues are made for conventions, Christmas (being a close second) and a few issues for birthdays and anniversaries. Judy Blackman issued an Easter flat in 2011and it was published with an article about Easter. Little did we know that Easter is the oldest Christian holiday, but how much of the most public and common celebrations of Easter today remain Christian in nature? Easter chocolate and candies are not Christian. The Easter Bunny isn't Christian nor is the Easter egg.

Most of what people commonly associate with Easter is pagan in origin; the rest is commercial. Easter began as the most joyous of Christian holidays to celebrate the rebirth of Christ. Since Easter comes at springtime when new life begins many ancient people honoured the coming of Spring and Christians adopted the egg as a symbol of new life. Eggs were forbidden during Lent but for Easter Sunday they

became a tradition. The hare or rabbit was also a part of the celebration of spring before Christianity. Celebrating the beginning of spring may be among the oldest holidays in human culture as the spring equinox (March 20, 21, & 22) is the end of winter. The Easter Bunny has been around since the 1500's originating in southwestern Germany, where it was mentioned in writings. The first edible Easter bunny was made of pastry and sugar in the early 1800's and the bunny laid colourful eggs in a nest that children made out of bonnets. Germans travelling to the Pennsylvania Dutch country brought the Easter bunny tradition with them to America. Slowly the hats that children piled into hidden nests for the bunnies turned into baskets that are still hidden around the house as children go on their Easter egg hunts.

And now for a quiz question:

Q. What Prince George Spruce Dollar has the picture of a football player on it? And in what year was it issued?

Til next time …… Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie

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Answer to the quiz question of March 2022

Q. Where was the Mount Begbie Trading Co. wood issued? And what was the value of this wooden token?

A. Revelstoke, BC – Value "Good for 50 cents on $5.00 Purchase. Wood 9670-001

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About those Q. and A's.

I messed up in January. I copied the wrong question to the right answer for December 2021.

Here is what you should have read then:

Q. In what city is Mercury Dry Cleaners located? And in what year did the business issue a wooden nickel?

A. Abbotsford, British Columbia in 1967 – wood # 9080-001

I apologize for the confusion.

France

Beloved music store owner becomes a Conductor

by **Judy Blackman**, CAWMC Life Member, FONA, KStE

There were 1,000 38 mm round woods issued (black ink on both sides) in 1975 for Kammer Music is referenced as 5105-001A. The rarity rating for both woods is listed as 3. The obverse reads "GENUINE WOODEN NICKEL NO STRINGS ATTACHED 1975". The reverse reads: "KAMMER MUSIC ATTACHABLE STRINGS AVAILABLE BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO".

The shear number of music stores and music recording studios in the 1970s and yet today, in Belleville is just amazing. The number of well-known artists to record there is even more astounding. Belleville is just over 2 hours from Toronto but seemed to attract many in the music industry from the big city.

Kammer Music was operated by a sole proprietor, and the store no longer exists. Charles "Charlie" James Kammer Jr., the Kammer Music owner, passed away on May 26th, 2012 at the age of 81 and is buried in Belleville Cemetery. He was the son of the late Charles James Kammer Sr. and Vera Evelyn Kammer (nee Levesque), and the beloved husband of Pat (nee Eberts) for 58 wonderful years. He was also the father of daughter Judy Wilson (Jim), and son Jim (Mickey), and he was a proud grandpa of four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Charles James Kammer Jr. was born on August 16, 1930, in Toronto.

Charlie was the originator and conductor of the Quinte Living Centre Band and played for 25 years in the 8 Wing Band at CFB Trenton. The Belleville Art Council Website reports that "*The Belleville Concert Band (not-for-profit) with over thirty members mixed laughter with learning when they make music on Monday evenings at the Quinte Living Centre*. Charles Kammer Jr. founded the Quinte Living Centre Band in February 1986 and was conductor from then until he passed the baton to Gerald Murphy in January 1995. Charles said the idea of starting the band first occurred to him after watching a television program showing a senior's band in Florida. "Some unknown force pushed me to do it and wouldn't let go until I did", said Kammer, who had been involved in music all his life and had owned a music store in the city for nearly 35 years. In January 1995, Charles confirmed he would continue playing in the CFB Trenton Brass and Reed Band but had taken a leave of absence from The Concert Brass Band. The Kammer Music & Flags store (on Front Street near the Reading & Greeting shop) seemed to be a gathering place. There were comments about loving to make music there with Charles's two children.

Charles is remembered as having a strong presence in fostering music, and its influence on folks' lives, everywhere he went. He is also remembered being on the radio and of course in the base band and there is a reference to him as Prince Charles of Music and him telling stories of his childhood and his music. Overall, everybody says what a good man he was, and a terrific husband and father.

Discovery of an Old Newfoundland Wooden nickel

By : Paul Johnson (R-104)

Late last year, my wife Mary-Ellen and I were chatting about “Facebook Marketplace”. This is an area where people can list items for sale and people can buy them. She had been looking at for comparison prices on various household collectibles. Since I had just attended a recent meeting of the Southern Chapter – CAWMC at Norm Belsten’s home, she put “Wooden nickels” into the search engine of Facebook Marketplace.

There were a handful of listings for wooden nickels from various locations in the Greater Toronto area. The first listing caught my attention since I had never seen it before and was not in my collection. The wooden nickel was from St. John’s Newfoundland. One side had the words “ *Good for One FREE COFFEE AT JOHNNIE & MARY’S 2 Campbell Ave., St. John’s. NFLD.”*

The other side shows an old style Indian head with the words “WOODEN NICKEL” and “Made in U.S.A.” under the bust. The wood measures 38 mm. in diameter. Norm Belsten has assigned the wood as #1725-044 for the wooden money catalogue.

We found that the woman selling the wooden nickel lived in St. John’s, Newfoundland. Registered Facebook users are only allowed to purchase items on Facebook Marketplace or ask questions of the vendor. It turns out that she had two of these same wooden nickels for sale and the price was $7.50 each. We did ask her a series of questions in which she responded to. She found the woods in an old cigar box with a few other old coins from her father’s estate a couple of years ago. Her father owned a business back in the 1960’s – 1970’s in St. John’s not far from where Johnnie & Mary’s were located. They are no longer in business. I would have to assume that the wood was issued in the 1960’s or 1970’s.

She doesn’t know of any other wooden nickels from St. John’s and was surprised to learn that there are collectors of these tokens.

I sent the payment of $15.00 to her and the two woods showed up in the mail a week later. Both woods have some stains on them but are still very collectible. This is a significant find and I am very pleased to add them to my collection.